

STOP PRESS

MST204 SP2 1998

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MST204 MATHEMATICAL MODELS AND METHODS

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1. M500 Society Study/Revision Week-end 1998

Now in its 24th year, this popular event will be held from Friday to Sunday, 11–13 September 1998, at Aston University, Birmingham. Tutorial sessions, by some of the best OU tutors available, are organised for most maths-related courses, including this one. It is a splendid opportunity to meet other OU maths people, and to get started on your revision for the exams.

There are three packages available at the weekend:

1. Tuition and full board
2. Tuition, bed and breakfast
3. Tuition, non-residential.

Prices are not finalised at the time of writing this, but will be about £100 for (a), £80 for (b) and £45 for (c) to M500 members. There will be an additional £10 administration charge to non-members.

Please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment, as tuition places are limited and popular courses fill up quickly. Note too that Aston restricts the weekend to 700 residential catered places (full board – 500, bed & breakfast – 200), which must include about 40 tutors. The last date for receipt of bookings, if places are still available, is Friday 28 August.

For full details and a Weekend booking form, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Jeremy Humphries, M500 Week-end 1998, 36 Penmanor, Finstall, Bromsgrove, B60 3BZ.

For details of the M500 mathematical society, send an SAE to Glenda Franklin, M500, 16 Warbank Close, Alvechurch, Birmingham, B48 7PA.

2. OUSA Faculty Products

Past Exam Papers

OUSA (Services) Ltd. continues to offer a comprehensive range of past examination papers for Mathematics and Computing courses. For most courses a set of the previous four years papers are on sale (but only if the course has been in presentation for that number of years). As a guide, in 1997 a set of four papers cost £3.00 plus 75p postage.

Other products

In addition to this OUSA (Services) Ltd. also offers a wide range of faculty specific products. The range for the Faculty of Mathematics and Computing includes:

T-shirt (size XL only)	£8.00	Clipboard Folder	£5.30
Sweatshirt (sizes Med & XL)	£18.00	Mug	£3.50
Disk Shaped keyring	£2.10	Mouse mat	£4.30
Postcard	.30p	Postage & Packing	£2.50

Also available a '**First Class**' T-shirt for those who enjoy using the First Class conferencing system. Available in Med and XL at only £8.00.

For an order form and full details of these products and other faculty ranges available, or past examination papers please telephone 01908 653693 (24hr ansaphone) or write to OUSA (Services) Ltd., P.O. Box 397, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6BE or Fax 01908 654326.

3. Changes to the examination paper rubric

Please note that from 1998 onwards you will no longer be asked to write your name on the front of any examination answer paper. You should, however, ensure you write your personal identifier and examination number on each answer book used as failure to do so will mean that your work cannot be identified.

If your course has a specimen examination paper the rubric on it may not have been updated to reflect the above change in policy.

4. Postgraduate Courses in Computing

You may not be aware the OU provides postgraduate-level professional development courses in computing, in its Computing for Commerce and Industry programme. Subjects included are:

- software engineering
- computer architecture and operating systems
- project management
- object-oriented software technology
- user interface design and development
- formal system specification
- artificial intelligence
- relational database systems
- software development for networked applications using Java.

Courses have credit ratings of 15 or 30 points, and successful completion of 120 points of study results in the award of a Postgraduate Diploma. Holders of the Diploma are eligible for a Master of Science Degree upon successful completion of a research project and dissertation.

You can obtain further information about the programme, and the related programme of manufacturing courses, by contacting the Course Sales Development Centre, P.O. Box 222, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6YY (Telephone 01908 652590).

5. Diploma in Computing

The University offers the award of the Diploma in Computing to students who have achieved 120 points (60 compulsory and 60 optional) in a coherent set of computing courses at undergraduate level. In order to keep as up to date as possible the diploma comprises only courses which are currently presented. Each course can count towards a maximum of two awards e.g. a diploma and a bachelors degree. There is no extra fee for registering for the Diploma.

For further information, please consult the courses newspaper, or contact your Regional Centre or the Awards and Ceremonies Centre, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA (Telephone 01908 653003).

6. Diploma in Mathematics

The Diploma in Mathematics is offered to all students who have passed M203 Introduction to Pure Mathematics and MST204 Mathematical Models and Methods (or its successor, MST207, from 1999).

The award can be retrospective and can be claimed only if you have passed both M203 and MST204. M201 and M202 cannot be counted towards the Diploma.

For further information, please contact the Awards and Ceremonies Centre, P.O. Box 123, The Open University, MK7 6DQ, telephone 01908 652823.

7. The *MMath* Degree – Answers to frequently-asked questions

(i) What is the *MMath*?

The *MMath* is a new undergraduate degree available to Open University students from 1997. More than half of the universities in Britain have introduced or are about to introduce an *MMath*. It is equivalent to a four-year full-time degree course in Mathematics. The degree has been introduced to

cope with the rapid growth of Mathematics and Statistics, and to produce graduates who are as well-trained as those of other European countries.

(ii) What does it consist of?

It is a 480 credit point degree consisting mainly of courses in Mathematics. At least 360 credit points must be from courses on an approved list of Mathematics courses at Levels 2, 3 and 4; of these 360 credit points, at least 240 credit points must be at Level 3 or 4. You can think of it as a *BA* or *BSc* in Mathematics with an additional 120 points at Level 3 or 4. For details of arrangements for transferred credit points, see Section (ix) and (x).

(iii) Which courses are on the approved list?

Almost all the current (and the discontinued) courses at Levels 2, 3 and 4 in Mathematics, Mathematical Physics and Statistics (but not Computing) are on the approved list.

At Level 2 we have: M203, MST204, M246, M261, MA290 plus the discontinued courses [M201], [M202], [M211], [M212], [M231], [M245], [MST282] and [AM289].

At Level 3 we have: MST322, MS323, M336, M337, M343, M346, SM355, SMT356, MT365, M371, M372, M381 plus the discontinued courses [M321], [M331], [M332], [M333], [M334], [M335], [M341], [M345], [M351], [SM351], [SM352], [TM361], [M382], [M383], [M384], [M385] and [M386].

At Level 4 we have: M431, M433, M434 and M435.

The restrictions on excluded course combinations in the undergraduate programme will apply.

(iv) How do I register for the *MMath*?

You may study any of the OU courses approved for the *MMath* without being registered for a particular programme of study. When you have satisfied all of the requirements for the *MMath*, then you will be offered your *MMath* degree.

(v) Can I use the same courses to qualify for the *Diploma in Mathematics*, the *BA/BSc* and the *MMath*?

There is a University Regulation which prohibits the use of any course to count towards more than two final awards. However, the *Dip Math* (which is based on M203 and MST204) is regarded by the University as a stepping stone towards the *BA/BSc*, and the *BA/BSc* is regarded as a stepping stone towards the *MMath*; the *MMath* is being regarded as the final degree in the progression. You can therefore count any qualifying course towards all three awards.

(vi) Is the *MMath* degree classified?

Yes! A much simpler system will be used to classify the *MMath* degree than that used to classify the *BA/BSc* Honours degree.

Your *MMath* classification will depend on your best 240 credit points at Level 3 or 4 on courses in the approved list. You will get

- 1 classification point for each 30 credit point course passed at Grade 1,
- 2 classification points for each 30 credit point course passed at Grade 2,
- 3 classification points for each 30 credit point course passed at Grade 3, and
- 4 classification points for each 30 credit point course passed at Grade 4.

Your total number of classification points for the eight courses will be used to determine your *MMath* classification as follows:

- *First Class* 8–14 points (including Grade 1 passes for at least 120 points);
- *Upper Second Class* 15–20 points; (or 13–14 points if this includes Grade 1 passes for less than 120 points);
- *Lower Second Class* 21–26 classification points;
- *Third Class* 27–32 classification points.

(vii) How does the *MMath* differ from the *MSc in Mathematics*?

The fundamental difference is that the *MMath* is an undergraduate degree, gained by successful study of undergraduate courses. The *MSc in Mathematics* is a postgraduate degree designed for students who wish to study Mathematics at a higher level, some of whom may decide to go on to do research in Mathematics.

The name *MMath* makes the award appear to be a postgraduate degree; this is not the case. However, this name is being used by all other universities who are introducing a four-year full-time undergraduate honours degree in Mathematics alongside their three-year full-time *BA/BSc* honours degrees in Mathematics, and so we have to live with it! (There are many similar undergraduate masters degrees in other subjects in the UK.)

(viii) Do I need an *MMath* if I want to do the *MSc in Mathematics*?

No, in principle. Normally, you would need a First or Upper Second Class Honours *BA/BSc* that includes mostly Mathematics courses to stand a good chance of being offered a place in the *MSc* in Mathematics programme.

However, the competition is fierce for the twenty or so new places available in the *MSc* in Mathematics programme each year. Students with the best qualifications will succeed in gaining one of these places. So students with good *MMath* degrees from the OU or from other universities are more likely to be offered a place than students who only have a *BA/BSc*.

(ix) I have a degree from another UK institution. Can I apply for credit transfer?

Yes, up to a maximum credit transfer of 360 credit points. You will still have to gain at least 120 credit points from the approved list of Mathematics courses at Level 3 and 4 to qualify for the award of an *MMath*. The rules for transfer of credit towards the award of an *MMath* degree are different from those which apply to the *BA/BSc* degree. Hence a separate application for credit transfer is necessary, and a fee will be charged for evaluation of each application.

If you request credit transfer for Mathematics courses, syllabus information may be required, and any credit transfer offered to you may be subject to a restriction on you taking certain OU courses from the *MMath* approved list because there is significant content overlap. For further information contact the Credit Transfer Centre, The Open University, P.O. Box 80, Milton Keynes MK7 6AS (01908 653077), requesting *MMath* advice.

(x) **What if I have a degree from a non-UK institution? Can I apply for credit transfer?**

We allow credit transfer for holders of degrees awarded in the Republic of Ireland on the same basis as for UK degrees. We do not currently allow it for degrees awarded in other countries.

For further information contact your Regional Enquiry Service or Mrs R A Cheriyan in the Mathematics and Computing Faculty Courses Office (Tel: 01908-652334). For credit transfer queries, contact the Credit Transfer Centre (Tel: 01908-653077) requesting *MMath* advice.

8. The Evening Advice Line

This is an additional service to the list of telephone numbers given in the previous Stop Press which aims to provide help to students who are unable to make contact with their Regional Centre during the day. The service will be run by a team of student service assistants, advisors and associate lecturers between 5.00 pm and 9.00 pm, Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays). The telephone number is 0541 596953. Calls are charged at the national rate. Your query will be dealt with nationally but referred back to Student Services in your Regional Centre the next working day, if appropriate.

This service is available to all students, but those allocated to tutor-counsellors should contact them for personal advice as usual.

Any queries on the non-receipt of course materials should continue to be directed to 01908 655739 between 8.30 am and 5.00 pm, or to 01908 371016 at other times (answer phone).

9. Correction to Useful addresses given in Stop Press 1

Correction to the list of administrative telephone numbers given in the previous Stop Press.

Please note that the telephone numbers for the Registration and Fees Centre start 85____ rather than 65____ as stated in the previous Stop Press. So the numbers are:

Tel: 01908-85____

followed by the four digits relevant to the first letter of your surname

B D R U V 8135

C G I P Q 8130

A E H L Y 8131

F M O W Z 8120

J K N S T X 8136

We apologise for any inconvenience if you have tried to contact these numbers.

10. Maths Miscellany radio programmes

There will be another series of the popular 'Maths Miscellany' radio programmes this year, and we are taking the opportunity to repeat several of the more popular programmes from earlier years: some of the programmes have been updated for this year. You can hear the programmes on BBC Radio 4 Long wave, on Sunday evenings from 8th February.

8th Feb, 20:30 Don't Mention the Margin (Pierre de Fermat)

15th Feb, 22:30 Maths and Music

22nd Feb, 20:30 Maths and Dance

1st March, 22:30 Maths and Sculpture

8th March, 20:30 Maths and Literature

15th March, 22:30 Who is Sophie Germain?

22nd March, 22:30 Madame Newton-Pom-Pom du Chatelet

29th March, 20:30 A Normal Part of University Life (Sonia Kovalevskaya)

5th April, time 20:30 The Lady of the Diagram (Florence Nightingale)

Please e-mail us if you would like to be on our mailing list for further information. The address is:

Miscellany@oupc.bbc.co.uk

11. Stanley Collings Memorial Prize 1998

Stanley Collings took great delight in problems with a novel twist to them. Never mundane, those he composed were always intriguing and – above all – fun to solve. In his honour, we now invite you to submit a problem (or a suite of related problems) of your own which, whilst not necessarily wholly original in content, should be presented in an interesting setting. The problems will be judged according to the following criteria:

- attractiveness and interest in the way in which the problem is posed; the judges particularly stress the need for the problem to be presented in a pleasing manner;
- suitability of the problem for its potential solvers;
- clear explanation of mathematical concepts inherent in the problem and of the thinking processes involved in its solutions;
- development of the idea behind the problem and some suggestion as to how it might be generalised.

The winning entry will be awarded a prize of £100 and its composer will be notified early in 1999. The name of the winner will be published in **Sesame**.

Participants should note the following regulations.

- Entry is restricted to those studying an Open University mathematics course (i.e. a course with an M in its code) in 1998.
- All entries should be accompanied by an Entry Form (see below).
- Entries should indicate who the problem is intended for (e.g. school children, MST121 students, etc.).
- Participants should provide a solution or an indication of a method of solution, where appropriate.
- Entries are expected to be no more than about four sides of A4 in length, and should be legible.
- Entries will become property of the Open University.
- The judges' decision will be final.

Please send your problem, together with this Entry Form, by 31 December 1998, to *Stanley Collings Memorial Prize, Courses Office, Mathematics and Computing Faculty, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA.*

STANLEY COLLINGS MEMORIAL PRIZE 1998 – ENTRY FORM

Please write in capitals

Full name _____

Student number _____ Current course(s) _____

Address _____

_____ Daytime telephone number _____

Title of problem _____

Age and experience of intended solvers _____